

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL WAYNE MARRIOTT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Michael Wayne Marriott, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 120, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Michael has been very active with his troop, participating in Scout activities like Camp Geiger. Over the 9 years he has been involved in Scouting, he has held numerous leadership positions, serving as Librarian, Den Chief, Patrol Leader and Junior Assistant Scoutmaster. Michael also has been honored for his numerous Scouting achievements with the award of the Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say Award.

For his Eagle Scout project, Michael constructed picnic tables for the Missouri Department of Conservation for use by the public at the Poosey Conservation Area near Chillicothe, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Michael Wayne Marriott for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INDIA EXPELS MISSIONARY AFTER HE IS SEVERELY BEATEN BY HINDU RADICALS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I was outraged to learn that a Christian missionary, Joseph Cooper, an American, was recently expelled from India. You see, Mr. Cooper came to the Indian government's attention after its radical, violent Hindu nationalist allies beat him so badly that he spent a week in an Indian hospital. He was expelled from the country on leaving the hospital.

Mr. Cooper was expelled simply for preaching, in another demonstration of the religious intolerance that characterizes India's "secular democracy." India has also demonstrated its secularism and tolerance when states ruled by the ruling BJP, such as Gujarat and Tamil Nadu, enacted laws prohibiting anyone from changing his or her religion, unless the person is changing to Hinduism. A Cabinet minister said that everyone who lives in India must either be Hindu or be subservient to Hindus.

The expulsion of Mr. Cooper brings to mind the disturbing case of Graham Staines, an Australian missionary who was burned to death along with his two young sons while they slept in their jeep. After this murder, Mr.

Staines's widow was also expelled from India. A mob set fire to the jeep and chanted "Victory to Hanuman," a Hindu god. Since Christmas 1998, nuns have been raped, priests have been murdered, churches have been burned, schools and prayer halls have been attacked, and other acts of violence against Christians have been committed. Over 200,000 Christians in predominantly Christian Nagaland have been murdered by the Indian government.

It would be bad enough if Christians were the only victims of this violent radicalism, Mr. Speaker, but they are not. Sikhs, Muslims, and other minorities are also being victimized and terrorized. More than 250,000 Sikhs have been murdered by the Indian government since 1984. Two reports have confirmed that Indian forces killed 35 Sikhs in the village of Chithisinghpura in March 2000. Indian forces were caught red-handed trying to burn down a Gurdwara (a Sikh place of worship) and some Sikh homes in a village in Kashmir. 52,268 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners, according to a report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR.) Some of them have been in this illegal detention since 1984! I am proud to have been a signer and sponsor of a letter to President Bush last year asking him to help free these political prisoners. In addition to over 52,000 Sikhs, tens of thousands of other minorities are also being held as political prisoners, according to Amnesty International.

Between 2,000 and 5,000 Muslims were murdered in Gujarat last spring. According to Indian newspapers, the police were ordered to stand aside and do nothing to stop the massacre, in an eerie parallel to the 1984 Delhi massacre of Sikhs. The Indian press also reported that the Indian government planned the Gujarat massacre in advance. Over 85,000 Muslims have been murdered in Kashmir. In addition, tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalits, Manipuris, Tamils, and other minorities have been killed by the Indian government.

Mr. Speaker, all of these acts have either been carried out by government forces or by radical Hindu nationalists who are part of the umbrella organization known as the RSS, which was formed in support of the Fascists. The ruling BJP is the political arm of the RSS. This is unacceptable. America must take a stand. We must work to stop these killings and attacks and to get all political prisoners freed. It is time to cut off our aid and trade with India and we should pass a resolution in support of self-determination for the Sikh homeland of Punjab, Khalistan, for Kashmir, Nagaland, and everyone else seeking freedom from radical Hindu repression. The essence of democracy is the right to self-determination. As the leader of the democratic world, we must hold India to these standards of true democracy. Only then will everyone in South Asia live in freedom, dignity, prosperity, and peace.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place an article from *The Hindu* on Mr. Cooper into the RECORD at this time.

U.S. MISSIONARY ATTACKED

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, Jan. 14.—A 60-year-old American national and Protestant missionary, Joseph Cooper, was grievously injured when he was attacked by a 10-member armed gang of suspected RSS activists near a gospel convention venue at the Koppam Harijan colony in the Kilimanoor police station limits near here late on Monday night.

Police said that seven other persons, including a preacher and his family accompanying Mr. Cooper, were also injured in the attack. Mr. Cooper, hailing from New Castle in the U.S., sustained a deep cut on his right palm. He is under treatment at a private hospital here.

Mr. Cooper had come to Kilimanoor to speak at the Koppam Protestant Convention organised by the Puliyaam Friends Bible Church. He and his fellow church members were waylaid by the armed gang while they were being escorted back to their vehicles from the convention venue at around 9:45 p.m., police said.

The assailants first exploded a cracker to create panic. They detained the missionary and other preachers for a few minutes before attacking them with short sticks, swords and crowbars.

Among those injured are the preacher Benson (37), his wife, Sali Benson, children Joy and Judith, Jayakumar and Mercy Christudas. Police said the attackers fled when other church members rushed to the rescue of Mr. Cooper. The injured were rushed to the Medical College Hospital.

In a statement to police, Mr. Benson alleged that the attack was carried out by local RSS workers led by an autorickshaw driver. Police have arrested Raju (34), a former Kilimanoor RSS functionary.

The Circle-Inspector (Kilimanoor), D. Rajagopal, said there was no history of communal discord at the Koppam Harijan colony where about 60 families lived. Some of the families practised both the Christian and Hindu faith.

When contacted, the SP (Rural), T.K. Vinod Kumar, said that police raids were on to arrest the rest of the accused. RSS and BJP workers, meanwhile, took out a march to the Kilimanoor police station demanding the release of those arrested. When contacted, the RSS Jilla saha karyavah, R. Santhosh, said that his organisation had nothing to do with the attack. He alleged that the speeches made by the U.S. missionary and other preachers at the convention were "communally inflammatory" and "insulting to practitioners of the Hindu faith".

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE TO THE FAMILIES OF THE CREW OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE "COLUMBIA"

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, our Nation and the entire world mourn the passing of the crew of the Space Shuttle *Columbia*. They were brave

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

individuals committed to challenging the limits of our knowledge and to the advancement of humanity. These brave souls have left us, but their spirit will remain forever.

Our Nation will always remember these heroes—Commander Rick D. Husband, Pilot William C. McCool, Payload Commander Michael P. Anderson, Mission Specialist David M. Brown, Mission Specialist Kalpana Chawla, Mission Specialist Laurel Blair Salton Clark, and Payload Specialist Ilan Ramon. I ask the Almighty to guard the souls of these greatest examples of humanity, and that they be loved and remembered with the deepest of gratitude and admiration for their dedication to advancing our understanding of the universe and discovering ways that science can improve our lives.

Thanks to missions like that of the Space Shuttle *Columbia*, we live, you might say, in a completely different universe than we did a generation ago, and our children will live in a totally different universe in their adulthood than we do now. We forge this path of progress from the sacrifices of brave souls like the crew of the *Columbia*. It is at times of grief that we find the higher purpose in our lives—our faith in God, love of family, and a dedication to the advancement of humanity.

We find ourselves conflicted by the pain of losing some of the greatest examples of humanity and overcoming our fear of breaking from the shell of our known universe and receiving with open arms the wealth of knowledge that awaits us. In the end, we must surrender to our scientific impulse and our restless, altogether human curiosity about the physical universe. We are incapable of nothing, and, like the universe and the love in our hearts, our future is without limits.

TRIBUTE TO NICHOLAS JORDAN HAGER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nicholas Jordan Hager, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 120, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nicholas has been very active with his troop, participating in such Scout activities as Camp Geiger, Cosmosphere and the Philmont Scout Ranch, the Atikokan Canoe Base in Canada and the National Scouting Museum. Over the 9 years he has been involved in Scouting, he has held numerous leadership positions, serving as assistant patrol leader, patrol leader troop guide, assistant senior patrol leader and junior assistant scoutmaster. Nicholas also has been honored for his numerous Scouting achievements with such awards as the 50 Miler Award and the Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say Award.

For his Eagle Scout project, Nicholas constructed an ornamental garden wall at the west side of the south entrance of Danner Park in Chillicothe, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Nicholas Jordan Hager for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of

America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE TO THE FAMILIES OF THE CREW OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE "COLUMBIA"

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, these brave men and women, representing the best of America and the world, gave the greatest sacrifice for the betterment of humanity. They knew the risks of their heroic enterprise. Their courage is the finest example of human aspirations, of reaching up to create an undreamed-of future. They are true heroes. They pushed the limits of technological and human potential and in doing so inspired our Nation and the world. Their memories will long endure.

Imagine a world with less air pollution, less dependence on oil, new fire suppression technologies, better earthquake resistant buildings, better weather prediction models, and better medical techniques to fight cancer, diabetes, and antibiotic resistance. This is the world the astronauts aboard *Columbia* were striving for. By carrying out more than 80 scientific experiments to expand our knowledge in these and other fields, the seven astronauts were tackling today's big issues with big science. They were pushing scientific boundaries to provide clues to issues we have been unable to resolve here on Earth.

In my district resides the NASA Glenn Research Center, whose scientists were well acquainted with the seven shuttle astronauts who we lost in this tragedy. The crewmembers had traveled to Glenn several times a year for training on the scientific experiments. They were family to our NASA researchers in Cleveland.

In their memory, we will push forward. We will continue to apply big science to resolve our big challenges. The scientists in Cleveland's NASA Glenn Research Center and across the Nation will strive for better solutions out of respect for the crew of *Columbia*. May they rest in peace.

SIKH LAWYER'S REFUSAL TO RE- MOVE TURBAN HELPS TO EX- PAND CIVIL RIGHTS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on January 28, the New York Times ran an article about New Jersey lawyer Ravinder Singh Bhalla. Mr. Bhalla won a significant victory for civil rights when he got the rules changed regarding searches at our prisons.

Mr. Bhalla went to visit a client at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn, where I am from. The guards would not let him in because he refused to remove his turban. Mr. Bhalla informed the guards that the turban is

not a hat, but is a religious symbol required of all observant Sikhs. Mr. Bhalla is of the Sikhs faith. He cited his first amendment right to practice his religion and his fourth amendment protection against unreasonable searches, nothing that he had already passed through the metal detector. He also cited his client's sixth amendment right to see his lawyer, a right that could not be exercised unless Mr. Bhalla was allowed into the prison.

Mr. Bhalla took his case to the Federal District Court in Newark. Then on January 17, the Federal Bureau of Prisons changed the policy, saying that turbans, prayer shawls, yarmulkes, and other religious items do not have to be searched. I commend the Bureau of Prisons for this enlightened decision, and I commend Mr. Bhalla for taking a stand on principle. By doing so, he has raised awareness of the rights of the Sikhs in this country and made all Americans more conscious of civil rights for all members of our diverse society.

Sikhs have been subjected to attacks and violence in the wake of the horrible September 11 attacks. A Sikh gas station operator was murdered in his gas station in Arizona simply because he wore a turban. All in all, there have been over 300 attacks on Sikhs. These attacks stem mostly from ignorance coupled with Americans' legitimate anger at the events of September 11. Because Osama bin Laden wears a turban, some ignorant people assume that anyone who wears a turban is a terrorist and an enemy of this country. Nothing could be further from the truth, as Mr. Bhalla showed us. There are over 500,000 Sikhs in this country and they are proud Americans who contribute in all walks of life from law and medicine to farming. One Sikh American, Dalip Singh Saund, served two terms in the House in the late fifties and early sixties.

African-Americans have been through the civil rights struggle; in some ways we are still fighting it. As Mr. Bhalla says, Sikhs are going through many of the same things. By taking a stand for his rights, Mr. Bhalla has expanded Americans' awareness of Sikhs and expanded our tolerance as a society, something that benefits us all.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place the New York Times article on Mr. Bhalla into the RECORD.

[From the New York Times, Jan. 28, 2003]

HOW ONE MAN TOOK A STAND AND CHANGED
FEDERAL POLICY TOWARD THE SIKH COMMU-
NITY

(By Ronald Smothers)

NEWARK, Jan. 27.—When guards at Brooklyn's Metropolitan Detention Center demanded last September that a Newark lawyer let them search his turban before being admitted to visit a client, they may have not have known much about the traditions of his Sikh faith.

"To a Sikh, removing his turban in public is the same as a strip-search and as intrusive as asking a woman to remove her blouse," said the lawyer, Ravinder Singh Bhalla.

But Mr. Bhalla, 29, knew quite a bit about the traditions of American law. Born in New Jersey of immigrant parents and educated at the University of California, the London School of Economics and Tulane University Law School, he knew his rights and was not afraid to list them, one by one.

There was his First Amendment right to practice his religion, including the ritual public wearing of the head covering, he told the guards. Then he expounded on his Fourth